

California National Guard combat units prepare for possible overseas deployment

Soldiers would be the first California National Guard combat and combat support units deployed for operations outside the United States since Sept. 11th

By Major Stan Zetzarski

More than 1,000 California Army National Guard combat and combat support soldiers are expected to process through here beginning Oct. 21, 2003 for possible deployment in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM. The soldiers would be the first California Army National Guard combat and combat support units deployed for operations outside the United States since Global War on Terrorism began shortly after Sept. 11th, 2001.

The California soldiers are primarily from the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment (San Bernardino), but also include engineers from the 40th Infantry Division's (Mechanized) Alpha Company, 579th Engineer Battalion (Petaluma), 132nd Engineer Battalion (Sacramento), and Bravo Company 898th Engineer Battalion (San Diego) (part of the Washington National Guard). Other California National Guard units include Company A, 1st Battalion, 149th Armor Regiment, (Madera), Charlie Company 1st Battalion, 143rd Field Artillery Regiment (Santa Maria), Division Support Command (Long Beach), and Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 185th Infantry Regiment (Visalia).

These troops will join about 2,000 other soldiers to help round out the Washington National Guard's 81st Enhanced Infantry Brigade for a destination yet



CNG soldiers, shown here firing a 203 grenade launcher, prepare for possible combat duty.

unknown.

California Army National Guard combat units have previously deployed within the continental United States in support of OPERATION NOBLE EAGLE to guard sensitive sites within the Western United States, including the 1st Battalion, 185th Armor Regiment. During these deployments, these units continued their combat proficiency by continuing training in the areas where they were assigned to secure, testimony to their dedication and commitment.

The 81st trained at Camp Roberts last June in anticipation of their rotation through the prestigious National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, California in 2004 where they were scheduled to receive elite training for combat operations. Authorities say that the brigade will still rotate through the NTC, but

most likely sooner rather than later. OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM supports missions in both Afghanistan and Iraq. It's possible that the 81st, which would be ordered to active duty for one year, could relieve units of either the 3rd or 4th Infantry Divisions, which would rotate out of country for long overdue breaks.

The 185th is under the administrative control of the 40th Infantry Division, but is controlled operationally by the 81st. The 2nd brigade will retain command of NOBLE EAGLE. The 40th Infantry Division's Headquarters is also preparing for a 2005 rotation through Europe when they are expected to command operations in Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Sinai Desert-Egypt, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. More than 3,500 soldiers are expected to deploy.

"I'm more proud than ever to be an American. I've never been more proud of those who serve our country. And, I am proud to recognize the men and women of Camp Roberts and their families as a vital part of our community." – Paso Mayor Frank Mecham



ATTENTION KOREAN WAR VETS: Camp Museum has gifts for you

Are you a veteran of the Korean Conflict? Veterans Day, Nov. 11, marks the end of the 3-year 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Korean War (1951 – 1953). The Camp Roberts Historical Museum, as an official partner in the Department of Defense's Korean War 50th Anniversary Commemoration program, has gone to great lengths to ensure that the

Korean War is no longer "the forgotten war."

The Museum has an entire room dedicated to that conflict and to the training soldiers went through at Camp Roberts prior to being sent over.

The Museum also offers – free of charge to all Korean War Veterans--two large commemorative posters, one smaller poster, and three different Korean War commemoration pins. This is a small

but very special tribute to those service men and women who sacrificed so much for the freedom of so many.

The items can be picked up from any of the docents in the Camp Roberts Museum. While you are there, we would also like you to sign our special Korean War Veteran guest book in the Korean War Room.

Thank you, Korean War Vets!

COMMANDER: Support from community 'outstanding'

Continued from page 1

there are other organizations such as supply and transportation outfits which make the perilous trip from Kuwait to Baghdad on a daily basis.

Our soldiers have been under fire constantly, but despite casualties have performed superbly both in Iraq and Afghanistan. They are resolute in their commitment to win the war on terror. Our thoughts and prayers are with them

always.

Due to the frequency and size of the deployments into the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Army is examining the prospect of expanding the mission at Camp Roberts to support more soldiers deploying overseas and demobilizing those soldiers returning from duty around the world.

Already, we are planning to mobilize and deploy over 4000 soldiers in 2004 and 2005. As

President George Bush has stated, this is a long war and he is committed to fighting the GWOT for the duration. We expect that the rotation of troops through Camp Roberts will intensify over the long term.

The support from the community in North County has been outstanding.

One of the highlights of the year and of Camp Roberts history, was the barbecue sponsored by the great citizens of the local area in support of the 300 soldiers in the 1498th Transportation Company which deployed to Kuwait in May of 2003. The outpouring of patriotism and concern was demonstrated by the volunteers and over 2,000 citizens who sponsored a truly patriotic rally for the troops on 23 March 2003 at Camp Roberts.

The event will always be known as the MOTHER OF ALL BBQS! To all those who supported and continue to support our soldiers, we can only say thank you.

As the Post Commander, I am lucky to have such a professional staff of both military and civilian employees. They work long hours to insure we give all soldiers the best training, administrative support and personal care available. I am proud to be their Commander, and honored to work with them everyday. Their selfless service and dedication to the troops is inspirational!

Over the next year, I ask that you pray for the safe return of all our young men and women in uniform from overseas. Their dedication and sacrifice for the liberties we hold so dear is testimony to their professionalism.

Their courage under fire and loyalty to the United States of America is exemplary. We are fortunate as a nation to have raised another Great Generation of men and women to defend our way of life.

Camp Roberts Historical Museum

Open Thursdays & Saturdays
9 am – 4 pm Admission is Free

IN OUR MEMORIES FOREVER
ALBERT E. DAVIS AND BRIAN DUKE
THOUGH YOUR PASSING HAD FILLED US WITH GRIEF, YOUR MEMORY FILLS
OUR SOULS WITH INSPIRATION, HOPE AND DIRECTION



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The Camp Roberts Historical Museum is now holding monthly meetings on the last Wednesday of each month. Anyone wishing to attend can call (805) 237-0819 for locations and times. Meetings begin at 6:30 PM and are usually preceded by a supper.

If you want to be on the ground floor of a great program of preserving local military history, please call us or stop by. We have many interesting projects. We need all makes and models of people. Former servicemen and women: we are looking for you!


With your help and support the Museum's success is unlimited.

Located on Camp Roberts, California, 12 miles north of Paso Robles on Highway 101

The Camp Roberts Historical Museum is a non-profit museum dedicated to the preservation of the history of Camp Roberts and to the soldiers who trained there. People interested in supporting the museum, as a volunteer or through donations, are encouraged to stop in at the museum on Camp Roberts, or call (805) 238-8288 or (805) 237-0819, for more information.

You can also e-mail us at: crmiltmus@tcsn.net


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